

is not enough of a rebate. So I'd just make a very simple attempt now to close the books on LB 30. I hope that we can all agree on that \$22 compromise and send the bill on.

PRESIDENT: Senator Swigart.

SENATOR SWIGART: Mr. President, colleagues. I rise to disapprove of the proposal of Senator George. I highly sympathize with his point. It's logical to ask to raise this because I don't believe that \$20 is quite sufficient to pay back that sales tax of the state that is being taken from them on food. But we must be practical. The Governor has let it be pretty well known that he would not veto \$20 on this issue. So why go through these gymnastics of trying to get it where we're going to have to override a veto. I'm so doubtful that it can be done anyway. But here we have raised this 25 percent. I think the people understand this because they know that what we're doing when we go above the Governor's recommendation in the budget, we're simply triggering off an increase in the sales tax and most likely income tax. So we have to do that which is practical, that which is reasonable. We'd like to do more. Lord, I'd like to give them \$24, but we simply cannot afford it. We've got to be realistic this year. If some of you would have gone down to the Appropriations Committee and heard those facts that were given to us by Mr. Peters and a couple of others of his staff you would understand how much we are short in money coming in from the sales and income tax. They told me that they were \$27.3 million behind. Now we know them to raise these logical requests, returning more rebate to the people, logical as it is, but that because of our limited income it's going to trigger a sales tax increase. I don't think the people want that. I found back home that when you are trying to hold the line and doing the best you can with the dollars we have that it goes over good with the people. They want more money back, but they don't want it at the expense of an increase in the sales or income tax, or both. That is exactly the direction we're working when we raise these above the recommended budget. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I thought I'd have to take my place in line behind about ten or twelve other speakers, but apparently not. Senator Swigart, you're not on the City Council yet. That is as much a City Council speech as I've ever heard with this difference, if we offered this effort toward equity in the situation, Senator Swigart, it's not going to hurt Omaha. I'd venture to say that you haven't asked one single person face-to-face in your dis.... Senator Swigart, would you answer a question please? Senator Swigart, how many people in your district have you faced in the same way that we're talking to here now and said 'would you rather have \$20 as a tax credit, or \$24?', and they told you 'golly, gee, Warren, I want \$20', or words to that effect?

SENATOR SWIGART: I've talked to several, but they always say by all means don't raise the sales tax.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, I didn't ask about raising the sales tax. You loaded the question. I'm asking you have you asked them.... If you haven't asked it in this fashion then I'll leave you alone. Have you asked people 'would you rather receive \$20 or \$24?'. Have you asked that question of them?